

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115874

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 L-02 PRS-01

SCA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00

SY-05 /055 R

66604

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WDYESS

5/17/75 EXT. 22071

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:M KOVNER

VO - MR. ARIAS (DRAFT)

ORM - MR. J. MCHALE (INFO)

----- 081091

P 171726Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DEPT OF STATE RECEPTION CENTER HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INS

HQS USCOGARD

UNCLAS STATE 115874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UR

SUBJECT: KOVALEV ASYLUM REQUEST

1. SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON ON MAY 17 REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE CONSULAR MEETING WITH SOVIET NATIONAL VYACHESLAV I. KOVALEV WHOM SOVIET EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN HONOLULU. DEPARTMENT OFFICER AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE MEETING, SAYING THAT U.S. OFFICIALS IN HONOLULU WOULD PROMPTLY SEEK KOVALEV'S CONSENT TO MEETING EARLY IN WEEK OF MAY 19. FYI: WHILE USG CANNOT REQUIRE DEFECTOR TO MEET WITH SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICER, WE STRONGLY URGE EACH DEFECTOR TO DO SO IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING SOVIET COOPERATION IN CONSULAR MATTERS IN USSR. END FYI.

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PAGE 02 STATE 115874

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER INFORMED SOVIET EMBASSY THAT IF MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES WOULD APPLY. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET QUERY ON LOCALE OF MEETING, WE RESPONDED THAT IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN HONOLULU, WEST COAST CITY OR, AS IS USUALLY DONE, IN WASHINGTON.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY ASKED ABOUT KOVALEV'S HEALTH. WE REPLIED THAT INITIAL REPORTS INDICATED NO PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD, BUT WE PROMISED TO SEEK MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

4. FYI DEPARTMENT AND INS WILL DECIDE MAY 19 ON LOCALE AND TIME FOR MEETING. DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO HAVE SOVIET AFFAIRS OFFICER IN LOS ANGELES AREA ON OTHER BUSINESS TOWARD LATTER PART OF WEEK AND IT MAY PROVE FEASIBLE TO ADVANCE HIS ARRIVAL TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING. PROCEDURES FOR MEETING WILL BE CABLED AS APPROPRIATE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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